

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 17, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3, 7-16, 18-23, 25-26, 28-36, 38-40, and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Himmel et al* (6,212,522 B1) in view of *Kim* (US 6,546,002 B1). Claims 4-6, 17, 24, 27, 37, and 41-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Himmel et al* (6,212,522 B1) in view of *Kim* (US 6,546,002 B1), further in view of *De Greef et al* (US 6,549,217 B1).

However, *Himmel et al* and the present application were commonly owned at the time the invention claimed in the present application was made, as noted in the Statement of Common Ownership filed herewith under separate cover. Accordingly, Applicant submits that *Himmel et al* may not be properly cited against the patentability of the claims presented hereby, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c), and request removal of this rejection.

REMARKS

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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